

December 2013



# Graham County School News



*Graham County School Superintendent*

*Donna M. McGaughey*

Volume 9, Issue 12

*"Providing Quality Service and Support to Graham County Schools"*

Please visit our website  
[www.graham.az.gov](http://www.graham.az.gov)

## Superintendent's Message

Yes, it really is December. Hopefully all of you were able to enjoy a peaceful Thanksgiving holiday with your loved ones. Our community crafters, vendors, and businesses provided wonderful opportunities to "shop local" and support some great causes. I'm sure there were some crazy shopping experiences at the larger stores as well.

Congratulations to our students! They really came through on the food drive challenge. Thousands of food items were collected and that will hopefully help our food banks fill up their shelves. I know they worked hard to be competitive, but I'm sure there was also satisfaction in doing something good for other people who are less fortunate.

For now, enjoy the musical programs, sports, and all other activities that help balance school life and give our students well-rounded experiences that are also important to their development as citizens!

I am very thankful to all of you for always going above and beyond.

## Contact us:

Donna McGaughey  
Superintendent

921 Thatcher Blvd.  
Safford, AZ 85546  
928-428-2880

Fax: 928-428-8824

[dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov](mailto:dmcgaughey@graham.az.gov)

Jill Davis, Chief Deputy  
[jdavis@graham.az.gov](mailto:jdavis@graham.az.gov)

Polly Merriman, Deputy  
[pmerriman@graham.az.gov](mailto:pmerriman@graham.az.gov)

Paulette LeBlanc, Education  
Service Agency Coordinator  
[pleblanc@aznexus.net](mailto:pleblanc@aznexus.net)

Online Registration:  
[www.graham.az.gov](http://www.graham.az.gov)

School Superintendent

## Save the Date:

**Dec. 7** — Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

**Dec. 11—13** Arizona School Boards Association (ASBA) Annual Conference

**Dec. 25** — Christmas Day

**Dec. 31** Last day to participate in the school tax credit program—contact your school to see how!

**Jan. 1**—New Year's Day

**Jan. 20**—Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Jan. 25**—Intel Math training

**Jan. 27** — Graham/Greenlee Superintendents meeting in Solomon

**Feb. 5**—Graham County Spelling Bee

The Graham County General Services Building is open Monday—Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and is closed on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.



### **Basic Toys Keep Kids Entertained *and* Learning**

The Thanksgiving turkey isn't even cold yet and ads are heralding the newest must-have toys for kids this holiday season.

So many parents have spent too much money on a toy only to have their toddler or preschooler prefer to play with the box instead. When it comes to capturing a child's interest and imagination over the long run, basic toys are a better (and more affordable) investment.

Simple toys appeal to the way the brains of young kids like to learn – by experimenting with things and interacting with people. Gifts like books, blocks, balls, art supplies, dress up clothes, board games, dolls, bubbles, musical toys or instruments, and building toys will get used more over time and will help your child develop skills that will get her ready for kindergarten.

Why do these toys stand the test of time? Because they allow young children to constantly experiment with different approaches and outcomes – building something, knocking it down, starting over – or they require interaction with adults – whose words, behaviors and responses offer kids a host of input, feedback and learning.

Besides presents, other holiday traditions can be beneficial to children's learning. In holiday decorating, children learn about shapes and colors. Through helping with cooking or baking, they learn about numbers and textures. Reading holiday tales, singing along to festive music and telling stories about family traditions build vocabulary.

The season offers many opportunities to help young kids learn. By choosing gifts that promote creativity and imagination, engaging in our children's play and looking for opportunities to read, talk and sing together – we can help our children build the skills they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. And, that's the gift that keeps on giving.



**Presents Professional Development Opportunities in STEM Education****Effectively Integrate Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards, A Framework for K-12 Science Education, & Next Generation Science Standards**

**STEM** education is the latest buzzword; but what does **STEM** mean? *A Framework for K-12 Science Education* shares a vision for an integration of science and engineering practice with disciplinary core content and cross cutting concepts. How does this translate to classroom instruction? How can **Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards** be integrated into STEM learning? What instructional strategies best promote STEM learning? Join us in our professional development workshops to explore these important questions and more.

The following sessions are designed to meet your needs for developing effective **integrated STEM instruction for your grade level.**

Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> - Teachers grades 5-8  
***Discovering and Applying Concepts of Energy***  
*Registration deadline: Friday, January 24, 2014*

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Teachers grades 3-5  
***Discovering and Applying Concepts of Ecology and Earth Systems***  
*Registration deadline: Friday, February 7, 2014*

Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> - Teachers grades 3-5  
***Emphasizing the 'M' in STEM***  
*Registration deadline: Friday, February 14, 2014*

Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> - Teachers grades PK-1  
***Exploring STEM in Early Childhood with Life Science***  
*Registration deadline: Friday, March 14, 2014*

**Registration Fee:** \$195

Includes a *Great Explorations in Math and Science*® (GEMS) teacher guide and either STEM and literacy resources or an *Engineering is Elementary*® (EiE) teacher guide depending on the workshop. A light lunch will be provided.

**Location:** Northern Arizona University North Valley Campus  
15601 N. 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. Phoenix, AZ

**Register online:** [www.nau.edu/CSTL](http://www.nau.edu/CSTL)

**Payment:** Payment may be made by check or purchase order to the Center for Science Teaching and Learning, Northern Arizona University, PO Box 5697, Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5697, FAX: [\(928\) 523-7953](tel:9285237953). **Confirmation:** You will receive confirmation of your registration and map to the professional development by **email**. Registration is not complete until payment is received.

**Cancellation and Refunds:** Ten business days notice of cancellation is required to receive a refund, minus a \$10 processing fee. We are sorry that we cannot issue a refund after the 10-day deadline.

**For more information** please contact: Lillie Giffen [928-523-7187](tel:9285237187), [Lillie.Giffen@nau.edu](mailto:Lillie.Giffen@nau.edu)



EXPECTMOREARIZONA.ORG®  
*Ready Kids • Ready Graduates • Ready Workforce*

Expect More Arizona is building engaged leadership and public commitment to ensure a world-class education system for all students. We raise public awareness, educate, advocate and mobilize Arizonans to support these five building blocks:



### ***World-Class Academic Achievement***

Arizona students are prepared for and successful in college and career, and they complete postsecondary education ready to compete with their peers around the world for the best jobs.



### ***Excellence for All***

Arizonans embrace the state's diversity and value the potential of every child's life. Every Arizona student has the opportunity to attain an excellent education, regardless of zip code, background, or special need.



### ***Commitment to Innovation***

Arizona students are critical thinkers and innovative problem solvers who are prepared for the jobs we want in Arizona and who will strengthen Arizona's global leadership and quality of life.



### ***Strategic Investment***

New and existing resources are strategically invested in Arizona's students, birth through career, to improve student achievement and to grow the number of world-class educators and schools.



### ***Communities Working Together***

Arizona's business and community leaders, elected leaders, voters, educators, parents and students work together with urgency, optimism and a long-term view to ensure that every Arizona student succeeds in college, career and life.

## Spelling Bee Information

Individual school enrollment to qualify students who wish to participate in the 2014 Arizona Spelling Bee should have registered by October 15, 2013.

To be eligible to send a representative to the county, state and ultimately the Scripps National Spelling Bee, schools must register and pay the enrollment fee, set by Scripps, of \$120.00. **A late fee of \$75 will apply between Oct. 16 and Dec. 13, 2013.**

**The Graham County Spelling Bee, which serves as the qualifier for the Arizona State Spelling Bee, will take place on Wednesday February 5, 2014.**

### School District Spelling Bee Timeline:

**August 15, 2013—Oct. 15, 2013:** Schools must enroll with Scripps Nat'l Spelling Bee

**December 2013 until January 17, 2014:** Schools plan and hold their school bees

**January 31, 2014:** Districts bees must be held and winners reported to the county office

**February 24, 2014:** County and Regional Bees must be held by this date

**March 3, 2014:** Biography forms from each county/regional winner must be submitted

**March 29, 2014:** Arizona Spelling bee will be held in Phoenix at Eight/AZ PBS

**Late May / Early June 2014:** Scripps National Spelling Bee will be held in Washington, D.C.

Good luck to all spellers!



### Save the Date!

*The Eastern Arizona Science Initiative (E.A.S.I.) will be hosting another "Saturday Science Camp" on January 11, 2014.*

*This opportunity will be for students in grades 7-8.*

*All of the details will come to you from Paul Anger and more information will also be published in the January newsletter.*

Thanks to Mickey Hawkins, Taylor Kerby and Paul Anger for providing the great hands-on learning experiences for our Graham and Greenlee 5-6th graders at the Saturday Science Camp last month. It was a great success!

Teachers who are interested in joining the Eastern Arizona Science Initiative should contact Paul Anger, Director at the Eastern Arizona Discovery Park Campus:

paul.anger@eac.edu

928-428-6260

Join your colleagues and have fun sharpening your science skills!



# SAFFORD CITY GRAHAM COUNTY LIBRARY



808 S. Seventh Ave.  
Safford, AZ 85546  
(928) 432-4165

The Safford City / Graham County Library offers services beyond checking out books. The Graham County School Superintendent has partnered with the library to offer homework help for students from kindergarten through college. It's free to Graham County students. Visit the library's homepage at [www.cityofsafford.us](http://www.cityofsafford.us) and click on the Homework Help icon. This will lead you to the icon for Tutor.com. "Check out" this free tool and get help on any subject.

Citizens looking for help with finding a job should take advantage of the services offered by Job Skills Instructor, Kevin Hansen. Mr. Hansen offers help in finding jobs and preparing resumes. Additionally, he will help coach job seekers as they practice their interview skills. This is a great service!

The library has partnered with *First Things First* to enhance literacy skills in our youngest population. In addition to story time, parents can bring their children to the Brain Box sessions and other preschool activities scheduled throughout the year. The library has secured a grant from First Things First to fund the Imagination Library Book Club. Children ages birth through five can be signed up to receive a free, age-appropriate book in the mail each month. These are just a few of the wonderful things families can explore due to the partnerships formed by the library.

Visit the Safford City / Graham County Library in person or online!

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The SE Arizona Workforce Connection team promotes and supports a workforce system that offers employers, workers and communities across Cochise, Graham and Greenlee Counties workforce solutions that achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

1910 W. Thatcher Blvd. Safford, AZ

928-432-6932

[www.seazworkforce.org](http://www.seazworkforce.org)

Kimberly Termain, Business Development/Outreach Coordinator

[ktermain@cpic-cas.org](mailto:ktermain@cpic-cas.org)



## **New to the area? Need information?**

The Graham County Resource Center is a one-stop shop to find information on all services offered in Graham Co.

It is open Mon.—Fri. from 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

301-B East 4th Street (across from the Safford Bowling Alley) Safford, AZ 85546 928-428-7231

## Professional Development Opportunities/ Grant Funding Alerts

### Esri Education Site License Program for Arizona K-12 Schools

Arizona has a statewide site license for this program and it is at **no cost**. The license may be free, but if you are new to Geographic Information Systems (GIS), you will want to do some self-training before you install it at your school.

It is highly likely that you don't need the full package. For small projects, you may find the free software available on the Esri website is easier for you to utilize.

If you are new to GIS, we highly encourage you to do the basics at <http://www.esri.com/what-is-gis>

You can apply for the full Esri software:

[http://perceval.bio.nau.edu/grail\\_form/default.aspx](http://perceval.bio.nau.edu/grail_form/default.aspx)

### D-Backs Program Grants

D-Backs program grants are given statewide to non-profit organizations. Funds for these grants are raised throughout the season through team fundraising events, including the annual Evening on the Diamond benefit dinner, Shirts Off Our D-Backs and additional events. All 501(c) 3 non-profit organization in Arizona are welcome to apply for funding, however, funding must be serving the people of Arizona. The deadline is open and the amount of grant funding available for projects is \$1,000—\$5,000. For more info:

<http://arizona.diamondbacks.mlb.com/ari/community/grants.jsp>

### KaBOOM! Let's Play Grants

#### Deadlines: Rolling

Dr. Pepper Snapple Group & KaBOOM! Are excited to offer \$500 Let's Play Completion Grants to qualifying Do-It-Yourself communities to be used toward the improvement of an existing playground built using the KaBoom! Community build model and \$750 Let's Play Maintenance Grants to communities who wish to make their playgrounds cleaner, safer and more inviting.

[http://kaboom.org/about\\_kaboom/programs/grants](http://kaboom.org/about_kaboom/programs/grants)

### Name: Shell Science Lab Challenge

#### Deadline: 12/20/13

Sponsor: National Science Teachers Assoc.

Amount: Up to \$20,000

The Shell Science Lab Challenge recognizes outstanding middle and high school programs in the U.S. and Canada for their exemplary approaches to science lab instruction.

<http://www.nsta.org/shellsciencelab/>

### Youth Program Grants

#### Deadline: Open

Sponsor: The Entertainment Software Association Foundation

Amount: Varies

Type: Social & Economic, Arts & Culture

The ESA Foundation is dedicated to supporting positive programs and opportunities that make a difference in the lives of America's youth.

<http://www.esafoundation.org/application.asp>

### VEX Robotics

Schools interested in learning more about VEX Robotics and available grants should visit

<http://www.vexrobotics.com>

[www.roboticseducation.org](http://www.roboticseducation.org)

[www.robotevents.com](http://www.robotevents.com)



## Grant Funding Alerts

*It's never too early to start working on a grant!*

### Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold, Inc. Grants

Mini-Grants for Education Application Window: May 1st –Oct. 30th

**(Start planning for next year!)**

Please visit [www.freeportinmycommunity.com](http://www.freeportinmycommunity.com) Click on: Our Programs

Grants in the range of \$100—\$500 a school is eligible to receive up to four mini-grants per year. Additional grant opportunities are available including the STEM Education grant. Congratulations to Lena Mattice, Ft. Thomas Unified School District on receiving this grant.

Graham County received nearly \$500,000 in the recent round of Community Investment Fund grant awards held in August. Several schools received grants, including Thatcher Unified, Safford Unified, Pima Elementary, and Solomon Elementary School District.

### Strengthening Secondary Education

**Deadline: Open**

Amount: \$100,000—\$200,000

Sponsor: Arthur Vining Davis Foundation

Type: Education

Grants are made for innovative professional development programs that strengthen teachers and their teaching in grades 9-12.

<http://www.avdf.org/FoundationsPrograms/SecondaryEducation.aspx>

### Sodexo Foundation Youth Grants

**Deadline: January 31**

Amount: \$500

Sponsor: Sodexo Foundation and Youth Service America (YSA)

Funding is for youth that live in the U.S. to lead projects focused on ending childhood hunger in their communities. Find out how you can help end childhood hunger:

[Www.ysa.org/grants/sodexoyouth](http://www.ysa.org/grants/sodexoyouth)

### KaBOOM! Spruce Project Grants

**Deadline: Rolling**

Are you itching to serve? Organize your friends, clean up a playground, and you can be come eligible for \$750, courtesy of Dr. Pepper Snapple Group. The grant is part of the Let's Play initiative to get kids and families active.

<http://grants.kaboom.org>

### DoSomething.org Seed Grants

**Deadline: ongoing**

Are you working to start a community action project or program with your friends? Do you need money to put your ideas into action? A \$500 DoSomething Seed Grant is given out every week to help young people like you!

Visit the website:

[www.dosomething.org/grants/seed-grants](http://www.dosomething.org/grants/seed-grants)



### **School Library Grants**

**Deadline: 12/2/13**

Amount: Up to \$5,000

Sponsor: Laura Bush Foundation

Type: Education

The Foundation provides grants to help school libraries expand, update and diversify their book collections. All LBF grants are made to individual schools rather than school districts, county systems, private organizations, foundations, or other entities.

<http://laurabushfoundation.unt.edu>

### **Instrument and Equipment Awards**

**Deadline: Open**

Amount: Varies

Sponsor: Fender Music Foundation

Type: Arts and Culture

The Fender Music Foundation awards instruments and equipment to eligible music instruction programs. These items are lightly used, blemished, or otherwise imperfect and have been collected from manufacturers and retailers. The organization is currently awarding acoustic guitars, electric guitars, etc.

<http://www.fendermusicfoundation.org/grants/grants-info/>

### **Daily Point of Light Award**

**Deadline: Rolling**

The power of the individual to spark change and improve the world—that's what the Daily Point of Light Award celebrates. Nominate a local hero for this award. Recognition includes a certificate signed by President George H.W. Bush.

<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/recognition>

### **Starbucks Youth Action Grants**

**Deadline: December 15**

Amount: \$10,000—\$30,000

The Starbucks Foundation is interested in supporting organizations that equip young people ages 15-24 years old—especially those not engaged in employment, education, or training in business savvy, social conscience, and collaborative communication.

<http://www.starbucks.com/responsibility>

### **Free Classroom Supplies Are Now Available for Teachers!**

How to help a teacher:

1. Visit the NAEIR website at [www.naeir.org](http://www.naeir.org)
2. Click on the Teacher's Program drop down
3. Click on the View Products to view the products that are available through this program.
4. Interested teachers can register for the program—the registration fee is only \$9.00. Click on the Teacher's Program Registration.
5. The day after registering, the new member of the Teacher's Program will receive an invitation to set up a Login I.D.

## News from the Arizona Geographic Alliance

Contact: Cathy L. Davis, AzGA Arizona State University  
School of Geographical Sciences & Urban Planning

PO box 875301 Tempe, AZ 85287-5302 cathy.davis@asu.edu 480-965-5361



Strengthening Geography Education in Arizona

**Student Film Competition:** San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival <http://www.oceanfilmfest.org/education/>

Do you want to get your students involved in telling a story? producing a short film? Why not focus on the ocean? The San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival is accepting student entries for the 2014 Student Film Competition as part of the annual festival!

What? The top 10 student films will be screened at the festival and prizes for 1st-3rd place will be awarded.

Who? Open to all students (nationwide and international) in grades 6-12

**When? Deadline to submit films is January 5th, 2014** (The Festival is March, 2014)

Where? Make the film anywhere! Films will be screened in San Francisco at the 11th annual San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival in March 2014.

Prizes!!!!!! 1st place-\$500 cash 2nd place-Go Pro Camera 3rd place Go Pro Camera

Have a question about the competition? Email [education@oceanfilmfest.org](mailto:education@oceanfilmfest.org)

### **K-12 Student Teams Can Win Science Awards**

Foundation: Toshiba and the Nat'l Science Teachers Assn. (NSTA)

Opportunity: ExploraVision Program

Funding Focus: Science education, youth (Funding supports student-led science projects)

Eligibility: K-12 student-led teams, schools

Funding: Eight winners, up to \$10,000 each

**Deadline: Jan. 30, 2014.**

Summary: The program (<http://www.exploravision.org>) is looking for projects which offer ideas and inventions capable of making the world a better place. The school submitting the most eligible projects will receive \$1,000 worth of Toshiba technology.

Each student on the four first-place Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision winning teams will receive a \$10,000 savings bond; students on second-place teams will each receive a \$5,000 savings bond. Members of the eight teams will also receive an expenses-paid trip with their families, mentors and coaches to Washington, DC for an awards weekend in June 2014.

### **2014 Youth Gardening Grants Encourage Outdoor Education**

<http://grants.kidsgardening.org/2014-youth-garden-grant>

Private Funders: Nat'l Gardening Assn. (NGA), Bonnie Plants, Ames and High Mowing Organic Seeds. Funding Focus: Recreation, gardening and education (funding supports school, community gardens) Eligibility: Schools, youth groups, community centers, camps, clubs, community organizations and nonprofits. Funding: 20 awards of \$500 each plus supplies. **Deadline: Dec. 6, 2013**

These grants help schools and community organizations build and expand youth-centered garden programs. They must involve teams of children between the ages of 3 and 18. The garden program must be charitable or educational in nature. Priority will be given to programs that emphasize integration of content standards, nutrition connections, environmental awareness, entrepreneurship.



The Safford City—Graham County Library has partnered with the Arizona State Library to bring a fabulous FREE database of eBooks to our students!

Visit [www.saffordlibrary.org](http://www.saffordlibrary.org)

On the left side of the screen, click on “TumbleBooks / eBooks for Kids  
“Check out” the titles, which now include non-fiction!

The books are indexed by reading levels, grade, and lexile.

Take advantage of this valuable opportunity—it’s free!

Several Graham County Social Studies teachers took advantage of the “Virtual Economics / Strand 5” training recently hosted by the Graham County School Superintendent. One really interesting and useful statistics website demonstrated in the training was

[www.gapminder.org](http://www.gapminder.org)

Check it out!

### Assistive Technology Loan Library

Arizona Dept. of Education Exceptional Student Services has partnered with Northern Arizona University’s Technology Access Program to make available, at no cost, a wide variety of assistive technology. Forms are available at [www.adeatloan.org](http://www.adeatloan.org) or email [atloanlibrary@nau.edu](mailto:atloanlibrary@nau.edu)

The Graham County School Office is a member of the East Central Regional Service Center (ECRSC) which includes Gila, Greenlee and Pinal counties.

*Our Goal: Provide regionally –based service, support and technical assistance, in collaboration with the Arizona Department of Education and the Governor’s Office of Education Innovation to Race to the Top Participating Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to Implement their LEA Scopes of Work.*

*Reminder: The Graham County General Services Building is now open Monday-Thursday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We are closed on Fridays.*